

**INTER-ATRIAL SEPTUM OR SUPERIOR VENA CAVA
ELECTRODES FOR ATRIAL DEFIBRILLATION**

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Related Applications

This application is a continuation-in-part of commonly owned, copending application serial number 09/827,535, filed April 6, 2001, which in turn claims the benefit of United States provisional application serial number 60/196,722, filed April 13, 2000, the disclosures of both of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

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Government Support

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Field of the Invention

This invention relates to methods, apparatus, and catheters that may be used to administer a therapeutic electrical pulse, such as an atrial defibrillation pulse, to the heart of a patient in need of such treatment.

Background of the Invention

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common arrhythmia in humans and represents a significant public health problem. There are presently 2.2 million cases of AF in the United States and approximately 160,000 new cases diagnosed each year. AF is typically managed by a combination of anti-arrhythmic drugs and external or internal electrical cardioversion. In addition, surgical compartmentalization or radiofrequency ablation of atrial tissue can be used. Unfortunately, long term success